

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A portable programmable apparatus for aiding a player in an interactive manner in the performance of a game of chance comprising:

a processor whose actions are directed by a computer program and having a plurality of ports;

a readable memory having prestored blocks of data representative of predetermined numbers and also representative of predetermined patterns furnished from a media having magnetic coded information which is accessible by means operatively movable relative to said information of said media, wherein said predetermined numbers and patterns are correlated to each other to provide games of chance and are capable of being accessed and manipulated by said processor in response to said computer program;

means connected to one of said ports for providing an interactive dialogue between a player using the apparatus and said processor during the performance of said game of chance, said interactive means allowing the player using the apparatus to enter data associated with said game of chance;

means connected to one of said ports for providing a display of the stored blocks of data, the data entered by way of said interactive means, and intermediate and final stages of the performance of said game of chance; and

means for providing a communication protocol for said processor to adapt said processor to communicate with another processor of another portable programmable apparatus.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said readable memory of said programmable apparatus is a non-volatile memory and is re-programmable by way of a serial port of said programmable apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said means for providing a communication protocol comprises a modem and means for re-programming said another processor by way of said modem.

5. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising; means connected to one of said ports for providing protection of said stored data against unauthorized access.

6. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising; means connected to one of said ports for providing audio and visual indications in response to said computer program.

7. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising; a portable power source energizing said programmable apparatus comprising;
(i) a battery charger circuit capable of being energized at its input stage by an external power source and providing a d.c. voltage at its output stage;

(ii) a plurality of batteries connected across said output stage of said battery charger and arranged to provide a cumulative voltage thereof; and

(iii) a d.c. power supply having its input stage connected to and excited by said cumulative voltage and providing a plurality of d.c. voltages at its output stage.

8. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of d.c. voltages at the output stage of said d.c. power supply comprises -17 volts; +5 volts; and +12 volts.

9. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said readable memory further comprises;

means for keeping an account of a cash amount which is debited by a predetermined amount upon the completion of said game of chance and credited by a predetermined amount, whenever said player successfully wins said game of chance as determined by said computer program.

10. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data representative of both said predetermined numbers and said predetermined patterns are associated with a game of chance selected from one of bingo and lottery tickets.

11. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said selected bingo game of chance is one of two types of hard and special cards.

12. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said bingo game of chance comprises a predetermined pattern selected from the group consisting of X shape, picture frame shape, fill-up shape, U-shape and C-shape.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code to define a predetermined schedule of Bingo cards, said computer readable storage medium having magnetic coded information which is accessible by means operatively moveable relative to said information of said medium, wherein, when the computer program is executed by a first computer, the computer program code causes said first computer to:

(a) receive electronically from a second computer via a communication link and store in said first computer blocks of predetermined numbers and blocks of predetermined patterns for a bingo session with said block of numbers and patterns defining said schedule of Bingo cards for said bingo session, each block of numbers and each block of predetermined patterns being respectively correlatable to each other and representative of said defined Bingo cards for said bingo session;

(b) process input requests to said first computer so as to retrieve at least one of said defined Bingo cards comprised of a respective block of predetermined numbers and a respective block of a predetermined pattern;

(c) process further input requests to said first computer corresponding to input numbers and comparing said input numbers against said numbers and patterns of said defined Bingo games and determining if a match exists therebetween;

- (d) process the matched/non-matched numbers against said predetermined patterns and determining if correspondence exists therebetween; and
- (e) continuing steps (b), (c), and (d) until said step (b) is requested to respond to another selected defined Bingo card.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code to define a predetermined schedule of lottery game tickets, said computer readable storage medium having magnetic coded information which is accessible by means operatively moveable relative to said information of said medium, wherein when the computer program is executed by a first computer, the computer program code causes said first computer to:

- (a) receive electronically from a second computer via a communication link and store in said first computer blocks of predetermined data comprising blocks of predetermined numbers and blocks of predetermined patterns for a lottery session with said blocks of numbers and patterns defining said predetermined schedule of lottery game tickets for said lottery session, each block of numbers and each block of predetermined patterns being respectively correlatable to each other and representative of said defined lottery game tickets for said lottery session;
- (b) process input requests to said computer so as to retrieve at least one of said defined lottery game tickets comprised of a respective block of predetermined numbers and of a respective block of a predetermined pattern; and
- (c) process input requests to said computer corresponding to input numbers and comparing said input numbers against said numbers and patterns of said defined lottery game ticket and determining if a match exists therebetween.

15. (Original) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein step (c) further comprises comparing said input numbers against said predetermined numbers of said defined Bingo cards and, if said input numbers match said predetermined numbers except for one number therebetween, causing said computer to display said one unmatched number.

16. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said readable memory further prestores a computer file containing an assortment of game schedules, each of said game schedules predefining the type, brand, cut and collation of bingo cards to be played upon along with the game patterns against which said bingo cards are to be played.

17. (Original) The programmable apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising means for editing and updating said prestored game schedules.

18. (Currently Amended) A portable programmable apparatus for aiding a player in an interactive manner in the performance of a game of chance comprising:

- a processor whose actions are directed by a computer program and having a plurality of ports;
- a readable memory having prestored blocks of data representative of predetermined numbers and also representative of predetermined patterns furnished from a media having magnetic coded information which is accessible by means operatively movable relative to said information of said media, wherein said predetermined numbers and patterns are correlated to each other to

provide games of chance and are capable of being accessed and manipulated by said processor in response to said computer program;

means for outputting said blocks of data from said readable memory to another processor of another portable programmable apparatus;

means connected to one of said ports for providing an interactive dialogue between a player using the apparatus and said processor during the performance of said game of chance, said interactive means allowing the player using the apparatus to enter data associated with said game of chance; and

means connected to one of said ports for providing a display of the stored blocks of data, the data entered by way of said interactive means, and intermediate and final stages of the performance of said game of chance.

19. (Currently Amended) A portable programmable apparatus for aiding a player in an interactive manner in the performance of a game of chance comprising:

a processor whose actions are directed by a computer program and having a plurality of ports;

a readable memory having prestored blocks of data representative of predetermined numbers and also representative of predetermined patterns furnished from a media from another readable memory of a second processor of a second portable programmable apparatus, said media having coded information which is accessible by means operatively moveable relative to said information of said media, wherein said predetermined numbers and patterns are correlated to each other to provide games of chance and are capable of being accessed and manipulated by said processor in response to said computer program;

means for outputting said blocks of data from said readable memory to a third processor of a third portable programmable apparatus;

means connected to one of said ports for providing an interactive dialogue between a player using the apparatus and said processor during the performance of said game of chance, said interactive means allowing the player using the apparatus to enter data associated with said game of chance; and

means connected to one of said ports for providing a display of the stored blocks of data, the data entered by way of said interactive means, and intermediate and final stages of the performance of said game of chance.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code to define a predetermined schedule of Bingo cards, said computer readable storage medium having magnetic coded information which is accessible by means operatively moveable relative to said information of said medium, wherein, when the computer program is executed by a first computer, the computer program code causes said first computer to:

(a) receive electronically from a second computer via a communication link and store in said first computer blocks of predetermined numbers and blocks of predetermined patterns for a bingo session with said block of numbers and patterns defining said schedule of Bingo cards for said bingo session, each block of numbers and each block of predetermined patterns being respectively correlatable to each other and representative of said defined Bingo cards for said bingo session;

(b) process input requests to said first computer as to output said blocks of predetermined numbers and blocks of predetermined patterns for said bingo session via said communication link to a third computer;

(c) process input requests to said computer so as to retrieve at least one of said defined Bingo cards comprised of a respective block of predetermined numbers and a respective block of a predetermined pattern;

(d) process further input requests to said computer corresponding to input numbers and comparing said input numbers against said numbers and patterns of said defined Bingo games and determining if a match exists therebetween;

(e) process the matched/non-matched numbers against said predetermined patterns and determining if correspondence exists therebetween; and

(f) continuing steps (c), and (d) and (e) until said step (c) is requested to respond to another selected defined Bingo card.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code to define a predetermined schedule of lottery game tickets, said computer readable storage medium having magnetic coded information which is accessible by means operatively moveable relative to said information of said medium, wherein, when the computer program is executed by a first computer, the computer program code causes said first computer to:

(a) receive electronically from a second computer via a communication link and store in said first computer blocks of predetermined data comprising blocks of predetermined numbers and blocks of predetermined patterns for a lottery session with said blocks of numbers and patterns defining said predetermined schedule of lottery game tickets for said lottery session, each block of numbers and each block of predetermined patterns being respectively correlatable to each other and representative of said defined lottery game tickets for said lottery session;

(b) process input requests to said first computer as to output said blocks of predetermined numbers and blocks of predetermined patterns for said lottery session via said communication link to a third computer;

(c) process input requests to said computer so as to retrieve at least one of said defined lottery game tickets comprised of a respective block of predetermined numbers and of a respective block of a predetermined pattern; and

(d) process input requests to said computer corresponding to input numbers and comparing said input numbers against said numbers and patterns of said defined lottery game ticket and determining if a match exists therebetween.